

BOOK REVIEWS

A TEXTBOOK OF OBSTETRICS. Duncan E. Reid, 1086 pp. Illust. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London; McAinsh and Company Limited, Toronto, 1962. \$18.50.

Dr. Reid's new textbook is a major contribution to the teaching literature of obstetrics. For the first time in more than a decade there is a challenge to the position of supremacy of Eastman's Obstetrics as the favoured study and reference book of most Canadian undergraduate and graduate students. Although academic in tone, and particularly strong in the chapters devoted to basic physiology, this volume is both readable and practical. A fresh organizational approach is evident throughout, with timely additional chapters devoted to human genetics and the newborn. The bibliography which follows all chapters is extensive and current. Although the author's thorough familiarity with the writings of others is continually apparent, this work bears the sound personal touch of Dr. Reid and his department at the Boston Lying-In Hospital. Not all readers will agree with views expressed on controversial subjects such as episiotomy, sedation in labour, and uterine packing, but one must respect the sincerity and clarity with which all opinions are expressed. The illustrations and tables are of excellent quality, and indicate a discriminating and thoughtful selection.

In these days, when the synopsis type of text seems to be gaining more favour, it is pleasing to find such a lucid and complete volume. This is the type of book which provides the undergraduate with a sound understanding of the broad fundamentals of the specialty, but it is also one which he can carry with him into his practising years as a practical reference work. It is predicted that it will find particular favour with residents and those preparing for higher examinations in the specialty.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER. 3rd ed. James A. Corscaden. 574 pp. Illust. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1962. \$12.00.

The newest edition of this series provides a comprehensive survey of gynecologic cancer and specifically emphasizes the high cure-rate associated with the early diagnosis and proper management of most of these lesions. In the introductory chapter, which is devoted to statistics relative to cancer of the female genital tract, Dr. Corscaden illustrates the progressive improvement in survival that has occurred in the last several decades and examines the possible causes. He also suggests diagnostic measures upon which future improvement will rest. Each anatomical area of gynecological interest is then dealt with in detail, including incidence, predisposing factors, histogenesis, pathological classification, mode of spread, clinical symptoms and signs, diagnosis, management and prognosis according to clinical staging.

Of particular interest is his review of pre-invasive carcinoma of the cervix and its degree of malignant potential in several series followed up for extended periods. A comparison of the results of large series employing radical surgery, radiation, or a combination of both in the treatment of invasive carcinoma of the cervix is analysed. After examination of predisposing factors which either support or refute the developmental concept of endometrial carcinoma, the

author concludes that although excess estrogenic stimulation may be responsible for some cases of this lesion, others show no evidence to suggest hormonal imbalance as an etiological factor. A practical approach to the investigation of abnormal uterine bleeding is outlined. Some authorities would disagree with the suggested management of trophoblastic disease, in that no reference to the use of concentrated oxytocic infusion is made in discussing artificial removal of the mole, and that the use of the folic acid antagonist, methotrexate, is mentioned only very briefly in passing.

Ovarian carcinoma is approached in a very practical way by discussion of ovarian enlargement under the headings: (1) general principles, (2) in the consulting room, (3) at exploratory operation, (4) in the pathologic laboratory.

The concluding chapters are devoted to the physiologic and psychiatric changes associated with the menopause, general principles in the management of the cancer patient, and the concept of the nature of cancer and its spread.

This edition with its extensive reference material should be of interest to all gynecologists, especially graduate students, and those intimately concerned with the treatment of gynecological cancer.

CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY. Vol. II: Thyroid. T. S. Danowski. 540 pp. Illust. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1962. \$15.00.

Professor Danowski has tackled a most challenging task in single-handedly presenting a textbook on the whole field of endocrinology. That he has succeeded in a work of this size in presenting a book which will appeal to the general practitioner as well as the specialist is a tribute to his method of organization of the material. Each chapter is headed by a concise summary which for many will suffice. For those interested in going further, the subject is treated in great detail and original references are provided in abundance.

Volume II of the text, devoted to the thyroid and its inter-relationship to the other endocrine glands, is an excellent exposition of the physiology and biochemistry of this gland. The therapeutic suggestions are inevitably biased by the prejudice of the single author and would not be agreed upon by many thyroidologists. The recommendation that thyroid extract is the best form of replacement treatment for myxedema rather than synthetic L-thyroxine comes as a surprise to this reviewer, who would also take issue with the author's comments on I^{131} therapy of hyperthyroidism, particularly the statement that " I^{131} will not significantly reduce the size of toxic goitres which are productive of disfigurement or symptoms". This runs counter to the reviewer's own experience that the goitre eventually shrinks completely if diffuse and is at least reduced greatly if nodular. The sections on "Endemic and sporadic goitre" and "Cancer of the thyroid" should be read by all general practitioners; they provide an excellent review of this topic, and in particular emphasize the point that all (non-toxic) goitres should be treated by desiccated thyroid or purified thyroidal hormones.

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A DECADE OF ALCOHOLISM RESEARCH. A Review of the Research Activities of the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, 1951-1961. Brookside Monograph No. 3. Robert E. Popham and Wolfgang Schmidt. 64 pp. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1962. \$2.95.

This is a timely presentation in the form of a concise summary of the 123 research projects undertaken and completed by the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario during the first 10 years of its history. Its timeliness lies not alone in the value of its content to those working in the treatment field of alcoholism but particularly in its value to those interested in undertaking research for the first time in this subject.

The value to the latter lies in the classified list of projects and reports and the theoretical studies concerned with research programming and the construction of models.

On a perusal of this work one cannot but be impressed by the modesty of the authors in their claims and by their objectivity in arriving at their conclusions.

This is a valuable contribution indeed and one which should be in every research library and alcoholism clinic.

CORRELATIVE NEUROANATOMY AND FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY. 11th ed. Joseph G. Chusid and Joseph J. McDonald. 384 pp. Illust. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, Cal., 1962. \$5.50 (U.S. funds).

This paperback volume, the first edition of which dates back to 1938, should not be regarded as a textbook of neuroanatomy. Of its 375 pages, 66 are devoted to a description of the central nervous system and 75 pages deal with the anatomy of the peripheral somatic and autonomic nerves. The remainder of approximately 235 pages covers the range of clinical neurology.

The fact that this book is written by a clinical neurologist and a surgeon may account for the somewhat unorthodox approach to the description of the brain as well as certain inaccuracies in the terminology. Thus, on page 1 the cerebral peduncles are meant to include the tegmentum, a usage which is now largely abandoned. The corpus striatum (which includes the globus pallidus) is said to send fibres to the globus pallidus (p. 26). The ansa lenticularis is said to form an efferent route to the "cerebral nuclei". In the description of the fibre composition of the internal capsule the corticobulbar tract is not mentioned. Additionally, a number of clearly incorrect statements can be found. The nucleus ventralis posterior lateralis of the thalamus is said to receive fibres from the trigeminal tracts (p. 29). The nucleus ambiguus is said to give rise to fibres of the spinal accessory nerve (p. 42). The spinal trigeminal tract should not properly be compared with the spinothalamic tract (p. 41) but with the dorsolateral fasciculus of Lissauer. This cursory chapter on central nervous anatomy is clearly of restricted usefulness, although short but more coherent accounts of some pathways are given in the chapter on clinical diagnosis.

In contrast, the peripheral nervous system receives a more extensive coverage. For each cranial and spinal nerve the anatomical description is supplemented by a brief account of relevant clinical symptoms. Schematic diagrams provide a useful source of references for segmental origins, dermatomes and peripheral distribution of spinal nerves.

Section III deals with principles of neurodiagnosis.

Disturbances of motor innervation are discussed first and are accompanied by detailed tables on muscle innervation and testing, followed by an account on sensory disturbances, reflexes, aphasia, apraxias and trophic changes. The normal and abnormal composition of the cerebrospinal fluid is presented next, and brief chapters containing basic information concerning electroencephalography, electromyography, electrodiagnostic and radiological examinations, cystometry, audiometry and psychometric tests conclude this section. Section IV (incorrectly labelled section V in the table of contents) covers central nervous system disorders and includes an appendix on the neurological examination. Sections III and IV have been extensively revised in the 11th edition.

The scope of the book is comprehensive. Intended as a supplement to standard neurologic texts, it derives its popularity from the concise presentation of basic factual information and from the appeal of numerous diagrams and tables, including some excellent halftone illustrations. It is hoped that a revision of the chapter on the central nervous system in future editions will permit a more unreserved recommendation.

RADIOISOTOPES IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE. Edited by Charles K. Friedberg. 158 pp. Illust. Grune & Stratton, Inc., London; The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1962. \$8.50.

This attractive volume presents a series of articles reprinted from a symposium that was first published in the journal, *Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases*. The purpose, and very successfully accomplished, is to present information and latest applications of radioisotopes in cardiovascular disease and to provide knowledge of cardiovascular hemodynamics obtained from such studies. The volume first presents an outline of pertinent terms or principles that are now so essential in a true and real appreciation of this highly specialized subject. Then follow chapters presenting in considerable detail studies and information derived from the broad scope of application of isotopes to cardiovascular function. Some of these are determinations of the cardiac output, the blood flow, the circulation time, the central blood volume and other circulatory quantities, as well as the space of distribution of various electrolytes. Radioisotopes have been found especially useful both in the detection of cardiac shunts and quantification of their size. These aspects are very well described by Braunwald and his associates. The use of precordial scanning techniques in the measurement of the coronary blood flow is described by Sevelius. This seems to be especially appropriate, since it avoids coronary sinus catheterization, necessary in the currently employed nitrous oxide technique. Special note may be made of the critical review by Threefoot on factors influencing the interpretation of isotopic tracer studies of body water and electrolytes. Silver and his associates present their experience in a very large series of cases of hyperthyroidism, many with congestive heart failure and angina pectoris treated with radioactive iodine. The concluding chapter presents a discussion of the use of radioactive isotopes to control angina pectoris and congestive heart failure in euthyroid patients.

In summary, this is an excellent and practical reference, especially useful to physiologists and clinical investigators of cardiovascular function and malfunction. The book is especially recommended to physicians interested in biochemical and physiological studies of the circulation, now a highly specialized science.